(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee for allotment of plots in SEZs

1653. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Committee authorized for allotment of plots in a SEZ;

(b) whether the developers of the SEZs have majority say in such committee;

(c) who owns the land in SEZ upon allotment; and

(d) whether the allotment is transferable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government has not set up any committee for allotments of plots in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

(b) The allotment of plots in a SEZ is the prerogative of the Developer, however, allotments of plots in processing area of the SEZ can be made only to valid Letter of Approval holders.

(c) As per the provisions of the SEZ Rules, 2006 land in SEZ cannot be sold and for all times remains the ownership fo the developer or the Lessor in case the SEZ developer has taken the land on lease.

(d) All the Estate matters in a SEZ come under the purview of the Developer of that SEZ.

Resentment in Muslim Organisations against SEZs

1654. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strong resentment of a number of Muslim Organisation against setting up of Special Economic Zones, the policy of liberalization the retail sector and import of readymade goods;

(b) whether it is a fact that this community is adversely affected as 85 per cent of them are artisans, small traders and retailers, who would not be able to face the competition with International players,with huge funds at their disposal; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A related news item has appeared in a section of the press.

(b) and (c) There has been no change in the Government Policy relating to foreign direct investment in the retail sector and policy regarding import of ready made goods in the recent past. However, the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006 have been operationalised with effect from 10th February 2006, main objectives being:

(a) generation of additional economic activity

(b) promotion of exports of goods and services;

(c) promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources;

(d) creation of employment opportunities;

(e) development of infrastructure facilities;

The SEZs will trigger a large flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity, with strong backward and forward linkages with the domestic area, leading to generation of additional economic activity and creation of employment opportunities. Investments over 13000 crores have already taken place and over 18000 additional jobs have got created in a short span of 1 year since operationalisation of the SEZ Act, 2005.